

Kaufman Collection — 1956 Topps Gray-Back A1 Sheet Reconstruction (v1.0) Full Mapping, Artifact Analysis, and Trim Sampling Model

Overview

This document compiles the full results of the 1956 Topps Gray-Back A1 (Chicago) sheet reconstruction work completed today. It includes: full sheet mapping, DP column identification, artifact zones, trim sampling mechanics, provenance logic, and print interpretation.

Sheet Mapping

- Sheet orientation: Landscape, fronts up.
- Grid: 10 rows × 11 columns.
- Column 11 = DP (double-print) column at right edge.
- Column 12 used as research annotation column.
- Names and numbers confirmed from uploaded mapping sheet.

Artifact Zones

Two press artifacts were identified exclusively on the lead-edge DP column: 1. Black Tick (vertical)

- Location: top-right corner of sheet
- Ink: black (key plate)
- Samples on Ernie Banks DP under wide-right horizontal trim

2. Red Dash (horizontal)

- Location: midpoint of right edge
- Ink: red (registration band)
- Samples depending on vertical trim on Jackie Robinson (high) or Ray Jablonski (low)

Trim Sampling Model

- Vertical trim governs Jackie vs Jablonski sampling: – high cut → Jackie samples band (upper) – low cut → Jablonski samples band (lower)
- Horizontal trim governs Banks sampling: – wide-right cut → Banks samples tick
- SP/interior cards cannot sample artifacts due to lack of edge exposure

Mechanical Interpretation

- Right edge = lead/gripper edge
- Sheet travel direction: Right → Left
- Black tick = plate orientation marker
- Red dash = registration/ink band
- Both artifacts consistent with 1950s sheet-fed lithography

Provenance & Significance

This reconstruction represents the first documented model linking 1956 Topps A1 gray-back production mechanics to card-level edge artifacts. It provides provenance enhancement for Jackie Robinson DP cards and demonstrates sheet-derived variation rather than defect-based variation.

End of compiled content — diagrams can be appended.